Chinese Heritage Survey in Wayland 2022

Overview of Survey Responses

Prepared by volunteer Irene Rideout, January 2023

The survey received 16 responses, and all but one were current Wayland residents. Just over half of respondents were immigrants from China; the rest were born and/or raised in the U.S., a few mentioning connections to Taiwan or Hong Kong. Respondents' birth years ranged from 1955 to 2008, with almost half of respondents being born in the 1970s. Over half of respondents' families came to the U.S. for education, most of them specifically for graduate school.

Almost all respondents moved to Wayland for the schools, while also appreciating the location and friendly community. Respondents moved to Wayland in years spanning 1962 to 2021, with half arriving in the 2010s. Half of respondents did not know anyone of Chinese heritage in Wayland before moving to town. Respondents most enjoy Wayland's schools, proximity to nature, the quiet, good neighborhoods, and friendly people. Respondents least enjoy issues related to town government, lack of diversity, lack of retail businesses, high real estate tax, and sense of entitlement. About a third of respondents did not list any challenges related to being a minority in Wayland, while the rest described cultural differences, difficulty making personal connections, and issues related to racism, stereotypes, and lack of diversity.

Almost half of respondents' listed English exclusively as the primary language spoken at home, a few listed a Chinese language exclusively, and about a third listed both English and a Chinese language. A majority of respondents' children have taken Chinese language classes, mostly outside of school, but some within the Wayland schools. Almost two-thirds of respondents said their children do speak Chinese, about half of those speaking some amount of Mandarin, a couple speaking some amount of Cantonese, and a few did not specify which dialect their children speak. About a third of respondents' childrens take Chinese arts lessons, including lion dancing and 9-man volleyball in Chinatown, and dance, painting, and music at Chinese school.

A majority of respondents were not involved in the Chinese-American Association for reasons including not knowing about the organization, being too busy, and not feeling comfortable or welcome, in part due to a language barrier because of the organization's use of Mandarin and written Chinese. About a third of respondents were involved in the association, appreciating the opportunity to connect with other Chinese people and contribute to the community. A few respondents have had difficulty participating in Wayland institutions, citing reasons such as being too busy, having difficulty understanding English, and feeling excluded.

Almost two-thirds of respondents have been affected by racism against Asian Americans. Half of respondents described emotions such as fearing for personal safety, particularly for older relatives, and feeling frustrated, sad, or angry. There were many thoughtful, extensive responses describing personal experiences. Despite wider concerns, a couple respondents felt safe in Wayland specifically, but one respondent does not feel confident in the community's support.

Just over half of respondents shared stories that demonstrate cultural differences between them and non-Chinese community members. A few shared observations, a couple shared positive

stories, and the remaining several shared extensive, deeply personal stories involving themes of racism, diversity, and discrimination.

Almost two-thirds of respondents shared a profound/memorable experience related to living in Wayland. One respondent shared a mortifying experience of racism, while the remaining stories were positive, involving friendly neighbors, community culture events, and specific experiences within the school system.

Summary of Survey Responses

16 individuals responded to the survey.

Demographics: **[Q1]** 15 respondents were residents of Wayland; 1 lived in Wayland in the 1960s and 1970s and now lives in Japan. **[Q2]** 9 respondents were immigrants from China, while 6 were born in the U.S. (1 specified their parents came from Hong Kong, another said their parents were born China but raised in Taiwan) and 1 was born in Taiwan but raised in the U.S. **[Q3]** 15 respondents provided birth years, which ranged from 1955 to 2008; 1 was born in 1955, 4 were born in the 1960s, 7 in the 1970s, 2 in the 1980s, and 1 in 2008.

Moving to the U.S. and Wayland: **[Q4]** 9 respondents said their families came to the U.S. for education, 7 of whom specifically mentioned graduate school for themselves, their spouse, parents, or grandparents. 2 respondents' families came for work, and 2 for better life or work in general. Other reasons included "economic reasons", to escape discrimination in Indonesia, and marriage.

[Q5] 15 respondents moved to Wayland for the schools, 1 specifically mentioning the schools' focus on art and music. 3 respondents liked the location, 2 liked the suburbs, and 2 mentioned the friendly community. Safety and nature were also each mentioned once. One respondent described Wayland's diversity, writing, "One of the things we looked at before moving to Wayland was the demographics. We wanted to be sure that our children wouldn't be the only Asians in the town because we did not want to be tokenized." **[Q6]** 8 respondents moved to Wayland in the 2010s, 3 in 2013 and 2 in 2014. 4 respondents arrived in the 2000s, 2 since 2020, 1 in 1962, and 1 in 1985. **[Q7]** Out of 15 respondents, 8 respondents did not know anyone of Chinese heritage in Wayland at the time of their arrival, though 1 had "heard there are many" and another wrote, "After moving here, we met many Chinese families, including 4 in our neighborhood (plus 1 more who moved in recently). Since kindergarten in Wayland Public Schools, my children have always had several other Chinese students in their classes every year." 3 respondents knew 1-2 Chinese people, 2 respondents knew 3-4 people, and 2 respondents knew 10 people or multiple families.

Living in Wayland: **[Q8]** When asked what they enjoy most about living in Wayland, popular responses included the schools (6 respondents), nature or the environment (6), the quiet (5), a good / friendly neighborhood (5), and friendly / inclusive people (4). Other responses included convenient location (2 respondents), safe (2), small community (1), the library (1), and educated people (1). The list of items they enjoy the least included issues related to town government (3 respondents), lack of diversity (2), lack of retail businesses and restaurants (2), high real estate

tax (2), and a sense of entitlement (2). Other issues mentioned once each include “Route 20”, small-town/clique-y feel, and residents who “get the police involved for the most trivial matters”.

[Q9] When asked about the challenges of being a minority in Wayland, 6 respondents did not list any challenges. 4 respondents described issues related to racism / stereotypes / lack of diversity, including one response with examples: “In Wayland elementary school in the 1980s there were many jokes and comments made about my Chinese heritage (comments about the shape of my eyes, people trying to imitate Chinese language in an offensive manner, and even comments about my parents' accents and names).” 3 respondents specifically mentioned cultural differences, including difficulty in celebrating Lunar New Year, and another 3 respondents had difficulty making personal connections.

Maintaining Chinese Culture: **[Q10]** 4 respondents said their children do not take Chinese language classes. 11 respondents had a child who studied Chinese outside of school, and 6 respondents had a child who studied Chinese in school. Some families had a mix, as described in this response: “I have 2 children. One attended Chinese school…through 4th grade… This child now studies Mandarin in Wayland Public Schools… My other child attended Chinese school through 2nd grade, but then stopped…[and] chose to study a different language in Wayland Public Schools.” **[Q11]** 10 respondents said their children do not take Chinese arts lessons, while 6 respondents said their children do.

[Q12] When asked about the primary language spoken in the house, 7 respondents listed English exclusively. 3 respondents listed a Chinese language exclusively (1 Cantonese, 1 Mandarin, 1 non-specific Chinese). 6 respondents listed both English and Chinese (1 Cantonese, 2 Mandarin, 3 non-specific Chinese), and of those, 3 indicated that English was the language spoken by the children. Overall, 2 respondents mentioned Cantonese, 3 respondents mentioned Mandarin, and 4 respondents did not specify which Chinese dialect they spoke. **[Q13]** 6 respondents said the children in their household do not speak Chinese. 6 respondents said their children speak Mandarin, including 4 who qualified their answer with “learning” or “conversational”. 2 respondents said their children speak Cantonese, including 1 who qualified their answer with “some”. 3 respondents said their children speak Chinese but did not specify the dialect, including 1 who qualified their answer with “a little”. 1 respondent mentioned both Cantonese and Mandarin.

[Q14] 11 respondents did not list any Chinese arts lessons for their kids, with 1 commenting that despite their children having “dabbled” in various activities (“Chinese yo-yo, learning to play the Chinese zither, Chinese arts & crafts, Chinese calligraphy and painting, Chinese cooking”) at Chinese school or Chinese summer camp, “It saddens me a little that my children do not participate in any Chinese cultural activities.” 1 respondent’s children participate in lion dancing and 9-man volleyball, both in Chinatown. Other activities mentioned include dance (2 respondents), painting (2), and music (1), which were taken at Chinese school, with 1 respondent specifically mentioning Wellesley Chinese School. 1 respondent mentioned an online course, but did not specify what type of activity.

[Q15] 10 respondents were not involved in the Chinese-American Association. Of those, 2 respondents said they didn't know about the organization, and 2 others were too busy. 4 respondents described not feeling comfortable or welcome, including 2 who mentioned a language barrier. One respondent wrote, "We felt the Chinese-American Association was mostly geared toward Mandarin-speaking families. We speak Cantonese and there are very few of us in town who speak Cantonese." Another described a friend who "was discouraged from…[joining] because she was told meetings were held in Mandarin and communications were sent in Chinese over WeChat, so it would be difficult to participate since she neither spoke nor read Chinese… it felt like there was a divide between Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans born and raised in the U.S." Another wrote, "Some people express extreme opinions on political issues with personal insult. I am afraid of them." 6 respondents were involved in the Chinese-American Association, for reasons including to meet and connect with other Chinese people (2 respondents), to contribute to the community (4), and to "be a bridge for the connection with other groups/race/communities" (1).

[Q16] 9 respondents have not had difficulty participating in Wayland institutions. 3 respondents have had difficulty; 1 felt there are "tight groups that are not interested in involving Asians", 1 had difficulty understanding English, and 1 was too busy. 2 respondents were "not sure" how they felt, and 2 made relative statements, such as, "Got better in the 70s".

[Q17] 5 respondents have not been affected by recent widespread racism against Asian Americans. 2 respondents gave equivocal answers such as, "It bothered me when I watched some related news. I don't feel it affects me most of the time." 1 respondent was affected and provided positive commentary: "I believe the best way to counter such hate is not to hate back… we should all come out our comfort zone to share/show we all care for the same, family, friends and society."

8 respondents were affected negatively, describing emotions such as fearing for personal safety and feeling frustrated, sad, or angry. 2 respondents specifically worried for the safety of elderly parents and grandparents, one of them writing, "Although we generally feel safe in Wayland itself… When we first started to see the news of anti-Asian sentiment in the U.S. during the pandemic, the videos and images were downright terrifying, particularly as we imagined those victims as our own parents and grandparents. So we frequently took over running errands for them and asked them to stay put at home where we knew they'd be safe, only increasing the feelings of loneliness and isolation brought on by the pandemic." There were many extensive responses to this question (see survey responses for full text), including the following excerpts: "when I look at all the unprovoked racist attacks on people of my community, the overwhelming majority have been committed by Black people. What happened to solidarity?… I have even had a group of Black teenagers verbally attack me at Target in Framingham!… Needless to say, after that altercation, I invested in pepper spray for each member of my family." And: "prior to the pandemic, anti-Asian violence was not prevalent, and in many places, Asians were accepted as 'basically white'. The sudden surge in anti-Asian violence was a stark reminder that Asians can enjoy being 'white adjacent' only as long as the rest of society allows us that privilege; at any time, we can be re-labeled as 'other' and treated as 'less than'. All that said, living in Wayland, I have not personally felt afraid or targeted or discriminated against because of my race, even

during the pandemic." Also: "It's deeply troubling and it does make me wonder who among my friends and acquaintances in this community would come to my or my family's defense if we were the target of aggression (in any form). Not one single local whi[t]e friend initiated a conversation with me about the anti-racist rhetoric during the Trump years or to check in during the onslaught of hate crimes in Atlanta and all over the US."

[Q18] When asked to share a story that demonstrates cultural differences between them and non-Chinese community members, 7 respondents did not share a story. 2 respondents shared positive stories: one wrote about an elderly neighbor who introduced himself when they moved into the neighborhood and made sure they had a shovel for winter snow; the respondent born in 2008 wrote, "One time in second grade, me and some Chinese friends wrote some characters on the board for the whole class; it was fun." 3 respondents made observational comments. One wrote, "We have more similarities than differences. But one interesting aspect is that we don't fast in any of our holidays, but many other cultures fast." Another wrote, "I can't handle small talk with my co-workers because I'm concerned to bring up a topic that is inappropriate because of culture difference." The third wrote, "Sometimes we speak chinese it sounds quick and loud like firecracker, english speaking people may think we are fighting."

4 respondents shared extensive stories that involved themes of racism, diversity, or discrimination. The following are excerpts; see survey responses for full text. One respondent expressed frustration with the lack of support for Asians, particularly in comparison to the support shown for the Black community: "My daughter is an advocate of Asian American rights. One of her classmates emailed her… to say that there was not enough recognition of matters involving the Black community in WPS and that Asian people have enough recognition… Some residents proudly display BLM signs on their yards. I think I only saw one STOP ASIAN HATE sign in Wayland. There is a huge BLM sign at WHS. However, not a single sign wishing the largest minority group in Wayland a happy Lunar New Year was displayed… The district celebrates MLK Jr. every year with an event; nothing for Lunar New Year… It just amazes me how Wayland is, for the most part, super proud of their inclusivity. Really, they bend over backwards for the Black community, and barely recognize other ethnic communities. This is why I am taking the time to complete this survey. I appreciate you making the effort to recognize the Asian community in Wayland. Thank you!"

Another respondent described Asians being excluded from people's understanding of diversity: "[A] white neighbor told me that she enrolled her kids in after-school activities in Framingham, rather than Wayland, because she wanted her kids to experience more diversity, since 'Wayland isn't diverse.' 'There is no diversity in Wayland schools' is a common refrain… In reality, white students account for about 70% of student enrollment, which means 30% are non-white, and the majority of non-white students are Asian. I believe the attitude among many Wayland residents is that Asians 'don't count' as 'diversity'. Race-related considerations and conversations tend to revolve around Black, white, and sometimes brown issues, leaving out Asians completely, who are essentially seen as white… this leaves me feeling unseen, as if my culture is erased."

The respondent who was born in the 1980s and moved to Wayland in 1985 described being different and feeling stereotyped, as well as seeing their parents excluded: “Growing up in Wayland, I remember often being the only Asian player on my sports teams. I always felt like I had to prove myself and play even harder than my teammates… It was like I had to prove to others that Asians could be athletic, too. Additionally, even from a young age, at sporting events/games, I took notice when everyone else's parents were huddled together and enjoying one another's company socially, while my parents were left off to one side, standing alone on the sidelines… It was not an issue of a language barrier as my parents speak English very well, albeit with an accent. It just felt as though the other Wayland parents were clearly communicating the message that they were not racist but they were not particularly inclusive either of anyone who didn't fit into their white, upper-middle class mold… this is a pattern I noticed from elementary all the way up through the end of high school… Sadly, I returned to a Wayland athletic event recently, and noticed the same thing happening with the sole Asian family standing alone on the sidelines while all the Caucasian families were socializing together in one long row of chairs. I was disappointed to see that not much has changed in that sense.”

Another respondent also mentioned the challenges of being different and having to work to be accepted: “As an American I share many more cultural references than not with other adults in my community, but the plight of being in a small, sheltered New England town (with many "townies") is that most people have very a provincial view and have not had much experience with people of any color. So I would say the main cultural difference is that as an Asian American I need to work doubly hard to establish myself as ‘none threatening’, ‘acclimated’ and ‘similar enough’ so that the majority people can feel comfortable or at least not suspicious. My social capital must be earned all the time. Whereas white people in the community enjoy the privilege of not needing to live in doubt or fear of being accepted.”

[Q19] When asked to share a profound/memorable experience related to living in Wayland, 5 respondents did not share a story. 1 respondent who was born in the 1980s and moved to Wayland in 1985 shared a story involving racism: “I remember in the 7th grade at the Wayland Middle School, there was an entire section of a major math test which assumed that each student had prior knowledge of how to calculate RBI and other baseball statistics. Instructions regarding how to calculate this were not included in the test. Although mortified that I seemed to be the only one who didn't know how to do this, I walked up to the teacher and explained to her that I didn't know how to calculate this. She explained that as an American 7th grader, I should already know this and told me to return to my seat. As quietly as I could, I explained, somewhat embarrassed, that my parents were immigrants from Hong Kong and our family had literally never attended a baseball game in my entire life. Despite this, the teacher again asked me to return to my seat. I absolutely will never forget this experience.”

10 respondents shared positive thoughts, 1 about having a generally positive experience, 2 involving friendly neighbors, and 3 involving Lunar New Year celebrations and other community culture events, with one respondent writing, “Have a good time in the Wayland Chinese New Year gathering and moon festival celebration. My parents who only speak Chinese feels at home.” 4 respondents shared positive experiences about the school system, specifically mentioning the high school, Mr. Lee at Happy Hollow, and the sports, music, and art programs.

Tabulation of Responses

16 total responses

1. Are you a resident of Wayland?

- Yes: 15
- No: 1 (Respondent #4: Born in MD, moved to Wayland from Lincoln, lived in Wayland in the 1960s and 1970s, now lives in Japan.)

2. What geographical area are you from? If you were born in the U.S., please indicate that.

- China: 9
    - Gansu: 1
    - Beijing: 1
    - Guangzhou: 1
- U.S.: 6
    - Pennsylvania: 1
    - Boston: 1
    - Baltimore, MD: 1
    - 1 specified parents from Hong Kong
    - 1 specified parents born in China, raised in Taiwan
- Born in Taiwan, raised in U.S.: 1

3. When were you born? 15 responses

- 1955: 1
- 1965: 1
- 1967: 3
- 1971: 2
- 1973: 1
- 1975: 1
- 1976: 1
- 1979: 1
- 1970s: 1
- 1984: 1
- 1980s: 1
- 2008: 1

4. Why did you/your family come to the United States?

- Education: 9
    - Specifically for graduate school for self, spouse, parents, or grandparents: 7
- Work, “advanced research environment”: 2
- Better life or career in general: 2
- “economic reasons”: 1
- Escape discrimination against minority Chinese in Indonesia: 1
- Marriage: 1

5. Why did you/your family come to Wayland?

- School system: 15
    - Focus on art and music: 1
- Location / easy access to city / close to work: 3
- Friendly town / good community: 2
- Suburban house/yard: 2
- Safe community: 1
- Nature trails: 1
- “One of the things we looked at before moving to Wayland was the demographics. We wanted to be sure that our children wouldn't be the only Asians in the town because we did not want to be tokenized.”

6. When did you/your family move to Wayland?

- 1962: 1
- 1985: 1 (Respondent #14, born in 1980s)
- 2003: 1
- 2004: 1
- 2008: 1
- 2009: 1
- 2010: 1
- 2012: 1
- 2013: 3
- 2014: 2
- 2017: 1
- 2020: 1
- 2021: 1

7. How many people of Chinese heritage did you know in Wayland when you moved here? 15 responses, 1 “Not sure”

- 0/None: 8
    - “heard there are many”
    - “After moving here, we met many Chinese families, including 4 in our neighborhood (plus 1 more who moved in recently). Since kindergarten in Wayland Public Schools, my children have always had several other Chinese students in their classes every year.”
- 1 person: 1
- 2 people: 2
- 3 people: 1
- 4 people: 1
- 10 people: 1
- 3 families: 1

8. What have you enjoyed the most/least about living in Wayland?

- Most:
  - Schools: 6
  - Nature / Environment: 6
  - Quiet: 5
  - Good / Friendly neighborhood: 5
  - Friendly / Inclusive people: 4
  - Location / Convenient: 2
  - Safe: 2
  - Small community: 1
  - Library: 1
  - Educated people: 1
- Least:
  - “devil-may-care bureaucrats in Town Building” / inefficient town government / town government style: 3
  - Lack of diversity: 2
  - High real estate tax: 2
  - Empty shopping centers / Few businesses and restaurants: 2
  - People are entitled (“residents here complain about the most ridiculous things”, “people in town are used to having more privilege than I am comfortable having”): 2
  - Route 20: 1
  - “get the police involved for the most trivial matters”: 1
  - Small-town feel / clique-y: 1

9. What kind of special challenges have you faced as a minority in Wayland, if any?

- None: 6
- Racism / Stereotypes / Lack of diversity: 4
- Difficult to celebrate Lunar New Year (before school system made it a holiday) / “Hard to find Chinese cultures activities” / “culture difference”: 3
- Difficulty making connections (with neighbors, for play dates, across heritages): 3
- “In Wayland elementary school in the 1980s there were many jokes and comments made about my Chinese heritage (comments about the shape of my eyes, people trying to imitate Chinese language in an offensive manner, and even comments about my parents' accents and names).”

10. Do/Did your kids take Chinese language classes: At School? Outside School?

- Yes, outside of school: 11
- Yes, in school: 6
- No: 4
- “Yes at school which is one of the reasons we choose Wayland”
- “No, but one of them has attending the Chinese summer camp at Regis College.”
- “I have 2 children. One attended Chinese school (the same school I attended as a child!) through 4th grade. We stopped going because classes were geared towards native speakers who spoke/understood Chinese at home, which my child did not, so the

classes were too intense (too much homework, too much studying for tests, many tears). This child now studies Mandarin in Wayland Public Schools, enjoys it, and is making good progress! My other child attended Chinese school through 2nd grade, but then stopped at the same time my older child stopped. This child chose to study a different language in Wayland Public Schools."

11. Do/Did your kids take Chinese arts lessons (music, dance, paintings, Taichi, etc)?

- No: 10
- Yes: 6

12. What is the primary language spoken in the house: Among spouses? Among children?

- English only: 7
- Not English: 9
    - Chinese language only: 3
        - Chinese only: 1
        - Mandarin only: 1
        - Cantonese only: 1
    - English and Chinese language: 6
        - English and Chinese: 3
            - Specified children speak English: 1
            - Specified children speak English and Chinese: 1
        - English and Mandarin: 2
        - English and Cantonese: 1
            - Specified children speak English: 1
- Respondents that mentioned Chinese: 4
- Respondents that mentioned Mandarin: 3
- Respondents that mentioned Cantonese: 2

13. Do your kids speak Mandarin or any Chinese dialect?

- No: 6
- Yes, Mandarin: 6
    - Qualified with "learning", "conversational": 4
- Yes, Cantonese: 2
    - Qualified with "some": 1
- Yes, did not specify which dialect: 3
    - Qualified with "a little": 1
- Mentioned both Cantonese and Mandarin: 1

14. Please list any Chinese arts lessons (music, dance, paintings, Taichi, etc) that your kids participate in, if any, and where they participate (school or elsewhere).

- None: 11
    - "It saddens me a little that my children do not participate in any Chinese cultural activities."
- Lion Dancing in Chinatown: 1

- 9-Man Volleyball in Chinatown: 1
- Dance: 2
    - At Wellesley Chinese School: 1
    - At Chinese School: 1
- Painting: 2
    - At Wellesley Chinese School: 1
    - At Chinese School: 1
- Music: 1
    - At Chinese School: 1
- An online course, activity not specified: 1

15. Are you involved with the Chinese-American Association? Why or why not?

- No: 10
    - Don't know about it: 2
    - Too busy: 2
    - Did not feel comfortable or welcome, or mentioned language barrier: 4
        - "Several years ago…a friend of mine (born in the U.S.) expressed interest in joining, but was discouraged from doing so because she was told meetings were held in Mandarin and communications were sent in Chinese over WeChat, so it would be difficult to participate since she neither spoke nor read Chinese. At the time, it felt like there was a divide between Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans born and raised in the U.S."
        - "No, I would like to be but most of the membership seem to first generation or those that are new immigrants i.e., "fresh off the boat". And while I speak Mandarin, I identify more with 2nd gen ABC's who have been born in the US and attended school/college here."
        - "We felt the Chinese-American Association was mostly geared toward Mandarin-speaking families. We speak Cantonese and there are very few of us in town who speak Cantonese."
        - "Some people express extreme opinions on politcal issues with personal insult. I am afraid of them."
- Yes: 6
    - To meet and connect with other Chinese people: 2
    - To contribute to the community: 4
    - To "be a bridge for the connection with other groups/race/communities": 1

16. How difficult has it been for you to participate in Wayland institutions (e.g. school, government) if that has been your experience?

- Not difficult: 9
    - "I would like myself and others in the community to make an effort to engage more in the institutions."
- Yes, difficult: 3
    - "I feel there have been tight groups that are not interested in involving Asians."

    - “Have difficult to understand English, especially when it’s law or super long sentences, etc.”
    - “A little bit of difficult due to busy”
- “I don’t know”/”Not sure”: 2
- Made relative statements: 2
    - “Involvements in school were easier than government since I work full time.”
    - “Got better in the 70s”

17. Recently, widespread racism against Asian-Americans has reached across the United States. How has this affected you?

- Not affected: 5
- Equivocal answer: 2
    - “It bothered me when I watched some related news. I don’t feel it affects me most of the time.”
    - “No[t] too much.”
- Yes, with positive commentary: 1
    - “Yes, it has. I believe the best way to counter such hate is not to hate back. I find many times we often put ourselves in a stereotypical box that will limit our ability to be included and inclusive, we should all come out our comfort zone to share/show we all care for the same, family, friends and society.”
- Yes, negatively: 8
    - Worry about elderly parents and grandparents: 2
    - Emotions mentioned: fear for personal safety, frustrated, sad, angry
    - “It makes my practice of Kung Fu more intense, directed, and applicable”
    - “I have been extremely frustrated by this. I have been an activist for all ethnic minorities for the past 25+ years. Yet, when I look at all the unprovoked racist attacks on people of my community, the overwhelming majority have been committed by Black people. What happened to solidarity? What happened to fighting together for equality and what is right? Because of outward racist hate spewed by incapable political leaders, the average American now feels it's OK to be ignorant, racist, and bullies. This attitude is felt everywhere across the country. Americans have said such racist and hurtful things about COVID being started by Chinese people. As such, Chinese businesses have been affected. Many have closed down, which impacts not only the business owners, but its customers as well. I have even had a group of Black teenagers verbally attack me at Target in Framingham! They thought they could say whatever they wanted to to me and that I would just silently take it. They were surprised that I talked back to them and told them where to go. They were stunned that I wasn't afraid to tell them where to go. Needless to say, after that altercation, I invested in pepper spray for each member of my family.”
    - “Every news story about an anti-Asian attack feels personal to me. Since most of the attacks appear random, I do think, "That could happen to me." When the victims are elderly, the same age as my own parents, I think, "That could have been my father." Generally speaking, prior to the pandemic, anti-Asian violence was not prevalent, and in many places, Asians were accepted as "basically

white". The sudden surge in anti-Asian violence was a stark reminder that Asians can enjoy being "white adjacent" only as long as the rest of society allows us that privilege; at any time, we can be re-labeled as "other" and treated as "less than". All that said, living in Wayland, I have not personally felt afraid or targeted or discriminated against because of my race, even during the pandemic."

- "Although we generally feel safe in Wayland itself, we do worry that our Chinese elderly parents and grandparents may be victimized when out and about running daily errands in neighboring towns and particularly in the city of Boston. When we first started to see the news of anti-Asian sentiment in the U.S. during the pandemic, the videos and images were downright terrifying, particularly as we imagined those victims as our own parents and grandparents. So we frequently took over running errands for them and asked them to stay put at home where we knew they'd be safe, only increasing the feelings of loneliness and isolation brought on by the pandemic."
- "It's deeply troubling and it does make me wonder who among my friends and acquaintances in this community would come to my or my family's defense if we were the target of aggression (in any form). Not one single local whi[t]e friend initiated a conversation with me about the anti-racist rhetoric during the Trump years or to check in during the onslaught of hate crimes in Atlanta and all over the US."

18. Please share a story/stories (if it applies) that demonstrate cultural differences between you and non-Chinese people in your community in the past or present. It could show ignorance,acceptance, something funny, or anything else.

- Blank or nothing to share: 7
- Positive story: 2
    - "The first day we move in, the Michael cross the road stopped by with a shovel. He wanted me have it for the snow in the winter. I kindly thanked him and said we have two. He was 85 years old and he wanted to help me when I got hit by the first snow storm. What a gentleman!"
    - "One time in second grade, me and some Chinese friends wrote some characters on the board for the whole class; it was fun."
- Observational story: 3
    - "We have more similarities than differences. But one interesting aspect is that we don't fast in any of our holidays, but many other cultures fast."
    - "I can't handle small talk with my co-workers because I'm concerned to bring up a topic that is inappropriate because of culture difference."
    - "Sometimes we speak chinese it sounds quick and loud like firecracker, english speaking people may think we are fighting"
- Story involving fitting in with themes of racism / diversity / discrimination: 4
    - "My daughter is an advocate of Asian American rights. One of her classmates emailed her - not to say that she is in support of my daughter's cause or that she even just heard about it - instead, this classmate emailed to say that there was not enough recognition of matters involving the Black community in WPS and that Asian people have enough recognition. To prove her point, she mentioned

that they were studying China in her History class during the month of February when they should be learning about Black American history. Once again, it felt as though a Black person was stepping upon Asians in order to futher themselves. I find this to be incredibly frustrating! Wayland prides itself on its commitment to diversity. A kid in another town says a racist comment to a Wayland student and there is an entire Diversity Town Hall created. Some residents proudly display BLM signs on their yards. I think I only saw one STOP ASIAN HATE sign in Wayland. There is a huge BLM sign at WHS. However, not a single sign wishing the largest minority group in Wayland a happy Lunar New Year was displayed, not even an announcement from the administrators. The district celebrates MLK Jr. every year with an event; nothing for Lunar New Year. Racist things were said online and graffiti found in the MS bathrooms. Of course administrators become babysitters, the residents rally outside the school, and meetings are scheduled at every level. What happened to the student(s) who made the racist comments? Nothing consequential that will teach them not to do so, again, in the future. It just amazes me how Wayland is, for the most part, super proud of their inclusivity. Really, they bend over backwards for the Black community, and barely recognize other ethnic communities. This is why I am taking the time to complete this survey. I appreciate you making the effort to recognize the Asian community in Wayland. Thank you!"

- "A year or two after moving to town, maybe in 2015-ish, a white neighbor told me that she enrolled her kids in after-school activities in Framingham, rather than Wayland, because she wanted her kids to experience more diversity, since "Wayland isn't diverse." "There is no diversity in Wayland schools" is a common refrain, in conversations and on Facebook posts in Wayland-related Facebook groups. In reality, white students account for about 70% of student enrollment, which means 30% are non-white, and the majority of non-white students are Asian. I believe the attitude among many Wayland residents is that Asians "don't count" as "diversity". Race-related considerations and conversations tend to revolve around Black, white, and sometimes brown issues, leaving out Asians completely, who are essentially seen as white. For me, this leaves me feeling unseen, as if my culture is erased. In some ways, being treated as "basically white" means I am not discriminated against, which of course is a good thing, however, I would like for my Asianness to be recognized, not ignored. I realize this is an ironic twist compared to my parents' generation: as new immigrants in a different era, their goal was assimilation, since frequently an acknowledgment of their Chineseness was likely a form of teasing, exoticization, or discrimination. My parents and I both want to be treated equally, but for my parents when they were my age (in the 1980s), that meant hoping other people would NOT acknowledge their Chineseness in a negative way, and for me, it means hoping that people WILL acknowledge my Chineseness in a positive way."
- "Growing up in Wayland, I remember often being the only Asian player on my sports teams. I always felt like I had to prove myself and play even harder than my teammates just to be recognized as a worthy player. It was like I had to prove to others that Asians could be athletic, too. Additionally, even from a young age,

at sporting events/games, I took notice when everyone else's parents were huddled together and enjoying one another's company socially, while my parents were left off to one side, standing alone on the sidelines. This happened at Wayland games, meets, team dinners, sports banquets, etc. It was not an issue of a language barrier as my parents speak English very well, albeit with an accent. It just felt as though the other Wayland parents were clearly communicating the message that they were not racist but they were not particularly inclusive either of anyone who didn't fit into their white, upper-middle class mold. No one went out of their way to say hi or include my parents, and this is a pattern I noticed from elementary all the way up through the end of high school. Although I had a positive experience growing up in the Wayland School system, I will always remember this. Sadly, I returned to a Wayland athletic event recently, and noticed the same thing happening with the sole Asian family standing alone on the sidelines while all the Caucasian families were socializing together in one long row of chairs. I was disappointed to see that not much has changed in that sense."

- "As an American I share many more cultural references than not with other adults in my community, but the plight of being in a small, sheltered New England town (with many "townies") is that most people have very a provincial view and have not had much experience with people of any color. So I would say the main cultural difference is that as an Asian American I need to work doubly hard to establish myself as "none threatening", "aclimated" and "similar enough" so that the majority people can feel comfortable or at least not suspicious. My social capital must be earned all the time. Whereas white people in the community enjoy the privilege of not needing to live in doubt or fear of being accepted."

19. Please share one of your profound/memorable experiences related to living in Wayland.

- Blank or nothing to share: 5
- Memory involving racism: 1
    - "I remember in the 7th grade at the Wayland Middle School, there was an entire section of a major math test which assumed that each student had prior knowledge of how to calculate RBI and other baseball statistics. Instructions regarding how to calculate this were not included in the test. Although mortified that I seemed to be the only one who didn't know how to do this, I walked up to the teacher and explained to her that I didn't know how to calculate this. She explained that as an American 7th grader, I should already know this and told me to return to my seat. As quietly as I could, I explained, somewhat embarrassed, that my parents were immigrants from Hong Kong and our family had literally never attended a baseball game in my entire life. Despite this, the teacher again asked me to return to my seat. I absolutely will never forget this experience."
- Positive memory: 10
    - Generally good experience: 1
    - Involving friendly neighborhood: 2
    - Involving Lunar New Year celebration: 3

    - “I really appreciate Wayland embraces the Chinese culture and fosters connections between the communities of Chinese and others. Eg. Annual Lunar New Year celebration at the high school, Culture events at Loker Elementary School, Wayland public library ESL program with MJ Wright.”
    - “Have a good time in the wayland Chinese New Year gathering and moon festival celebration. My parents who only speak Chinese feels at home.”
- Involving school system, specifically mentioning Wayland High School, Mr. Lee at Happy Hollow, sports, music, and art: 4
    - “When we moved to Wayland, my husband took my daughter to visit Happy Hollow school. She would be first year student. It’s still summer break time, but Principle Lee welcomed them and showed my daughter around. My daughter loved Happy Hollow immediately. Thanks to Mr. Lee! This made me feel this is the right place to raise my kid. My daughter will go to college this fall. She surely has a lot of happy memories growing up in Wayland”